

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Federal Emergency Management Agency
in Conjunction with the American Samoa Government
Permanent Housing Construction
FEMA-1859-DR-AS

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in conjunction with the American Samoa Government, is proposing to implement the Permanent Housing Construction Program on the island of Tutuila in American Samoa. The program would be implemented through FEMA's Individual Assistance Program (IAP). The proposal consists of providing direct assistance to construct approximately 60 residential structures to replace houses destroyed in a major disaster involving an earthquake, tsunami, and flooding beginning on September 29, 2009 (FEMA-1859-DR-AS).

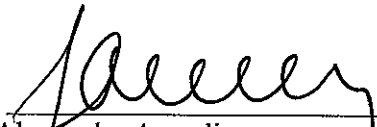
All residences would have one story, interior walls, electricity, plumbing, covered patios, and metal roofs. Septic systems would be constructed as necessary. Utilities lines, including power, telephone, domestic water, and sanitary sewer, would be extended or restored to many housing sites. Two-bedroom and three-bedroom floor plans would have approximately 800 square feet and 1,200 square feet, respectively.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4327 [2008]), FEMA has prepared a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the proposed project to evaluate the impacts of the proposed project on the environment. In compliance with NEPA, the impact of taking no action was evaluated.

The PEA was posted at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region9.shtm> for public review and notification was provided in local newspapers and by e-mail. The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency submitted a comment stating that residences should be connected to public wastewater utilities where available or that residences should have appropriate onsite wastewater treatment such as a septic system. Installation of septic systems or connection to appropriate utilities is discussed in the Proposed Project description of the PEA. No other comments were received that warranted a response.

FEMA prepared the PEA to streamline compliance with NEPA and to expedite the provision of housing to displaced persons. FEMA would apply the PEA to the proposed project throughout Tutuila. For actions not described in the PEA or for action-specific impacts that require additional analyses, as documented in the PEA, FEMA would prepare a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) that would tier from the PEA. The findings in the PEA, and SEAs as appropriate, would provide the required NEPA clearance. They would also provide, with appropriate agency consultations, a means for FEMA to address compliance with other Federal environmental laws and regulations.

Based on the conditions and the information in the PEA, and in accordance with FEMA's regulations in 44 C.F.R. § 10 (Environmental Considerations) and Executive Orders 11900 (Protection of Wetlands), 11988 (Floodplain Management), and 12898 (Environmental Justice), a Finding of No Significant Impact has been determined. An environmental impact statement will therefore not be prepared because there would be no long-term adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment resulting from the proposed project. Information required by 44 C.F.R. § 9.12(e) is provided in the PEA. For more information, contact the undersigned at (510) 627-7027.



Alessandro Amaglio
Region IX Environmental Officer

01/13/10
Date